



## WHOLESALE BEER DISTRIBUTORS OF TEXAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Texas Beer Distributors Launch Statewide Initiative, Commit to Fight Human Trafficking**

*Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas is partnering with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to train distributors and their employees on how to spot and report signs of human trafficking.*

**AUSTIN, Texas** – On National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, the *Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas (WBDT)* are proud to launch *DISTRIBUTORS ON ALERT*, the association's statewide Texas initiative to empower distributors with the necessary tools and training from *Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)* to spot and report human trafficking. In years past, WBDT members participated in the *National Beer Wholesalers Association's* efforts to combat human trafficking on a nationwide scale.

WBDT President Tom Spilman said, "by providing this collaborative effort to educate employees on how to recognize and report signs of human trafficking, it prepares distributors to be an extra set of eyes and ears on the ground. Beer distributors and their 14,500+ employees are uniquely positioned to aid in the fight given their level of access to venues and stores across the state". Employees of beer distributors visit hundreds of licensed retail locations each week, including bars, restaurants, hotels, convenience stores, package stores, sports arenas, and grocery stores.

Since 2018 when TABC began providing education to businesses to spot and report suspected human trafficking, the agency received a 275% increase in reports, 287+ victims were rescued and identified, and more than a dozen TABC permits were cancelled related to human trafficking.

With the dedication of distributors in every region of the state, we will be able to train thousands of employees to recognize the signs of human trafficking on their daily routes, strengthening the forces working against this criminal industry.

To learn more about the initiative, please visit [www.WBDT.com/HumanTrafficking](http://www.WBDT.com/HumanTrafficking).

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